



SUDBURY URBAN DISTRICT
OR
BOROUGH OF SUDBURY
IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for 1952

TO the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Sudbury:—

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration, the Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough of Sudbury for the year 1952.

The statistics for the year reviewed show no trend of particular significance but the continued downward trend in the population residing in the borough will be noted.

The number of notifications received considerably increased. This was due almost entirely to an outbreak of infective jaundice.

Serious pollution of the River Stour caused the death of a large number of fish which had to be removed to prevent their becoming a nuisance.

The town was visited by the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit and the response by the townspeople in presenting themselves for examination has not been exceeded since.

I wish to to acknowledge with gratitude the support received from the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee and to record my thanks to the Town Clerk, Mr. R. Coates, the Borough Surveyor, Mr. C. L. Heyne, and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. E. H. Kerridge for their co-operation during the year reviewed.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. P. BARCLAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

1.—General Statistics

Figures in brackets relate to the previous year

Population, Registrar General's Estimate	6228 (6318)	Area	1925 acres
Number of inhabited Houses	2591 (2561)	Rateable Value	£36,535 (£36,191)
Sum represented by a penny rate at 31/3/53	£143 7s. 8d. (£141 8s. 11d.)		

2.—Extracts of Vital Statistics for the Year

LIVE BIRTHS	TOTAL	M	F	
Legitimate	74 (65)	40 (33)	34 (32)	Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population 12.4 (10.6)
Illegitimate	3 (2)	3 (1)	0 (1)	
Total ..	77 (67)	43 (34)	34 (33)	Adjusted Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population 13.6 (11.7)
				England and Wales 15.3 (15.5)
STILL BIRTHS				
Legitimate	4 (0)	1 (0)	3 (0)	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live Births .. 51.9 (0.00)
Illegitimate	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	
Total ..	4 (0)	1 (0)	3 (0)	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live Births, England and Wales 27.6 (0.36)

Illegitimate Birth Rate 4.5 per cent.

DEATHS registered in 1952										Death Rate (crude)	..	..	16.2 (17.1)
										Death Rate (adjusted)	..	..	11.4 (12.0)
										Death Rate of England and Wales			11.3 (12.5)
TOTAL 101 (108) Male 46 (55) Female 55 (53)													
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of child-birth, pregnancy or abortion													
(a) from sepsis										..	..	..	0
(b) other causes										..	..	..	0
Deaths of Infants under one year										Legitimate	..	..	3 (1)
										Illegitimate	..	..	0 (0)
Death Rate of Infants under one year													
All infants per 1,000 live births										..	..	..	38.9 (14.9)
England and Wales per 1,000 live births										..	..	..	27.6 (29.6)
Causes of Death of Infants under one month													
(a) Prematurity										..	..	..	1
(b) Congenital Malformation										..	..	..	1
Deaths from Measles (all ages)										..	..	..	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough										..	..	..	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)										..	..	..	0
										MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)										9 (8)	7 (8)	16 (16)	
Deaths from Heart Diseases										27 (24)	33 (21)	50 (45)	
Deaths from Bronchitis										3 (2)	0 (2)	3 (4)	
Deaths from Pneumonia										1 (3)	2 (3)	3 (6)	
Deaths from Nephritis										0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (1)	
Deaths from Tuberculosis (Respiratory)										0 (0)	1 (2)	1 (2)	
Deaths from Tuberculosis (other forms)										0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (1)	
Deaths from Leukaemia										0 (2)	1 (0)	1 (2)	
Deaths from Vascular Lesions of the													
Nervous System										7 (2)	4 (7)	11 (9)	
Accidents (Motor Vehicle)										0 (2)	0 (0)	0 (2)	
Accidents (Other)										1 (0)	0 (1)	1 (1)	
Suicide										0 (0)	1 (2)	1 (2)	
Homicide										1 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	

SECTION B

A. WATER SUPPLY

An adequate supply of water has been maintained throughout the district. Quarterly bacteriological analyses have been taken, in all cases the results have been excellent. The samples were taken after chlorination, which is carried out as a precautionary measure only.

No chemical analysis was taken during the year. Owing to the extreme hardness of the water there is no danger from dissolved lead.

During the year the obsolete steam standby pump was replaced by new automatic electric turbine pump and new recording meters were installed at the reservoir.

B. SEWERAGE AND SEWERAGE DISPOSAL

A reasonably good effluent has been maintained throughout the year. Minor improvements were carried out to sludge drying beds and humus tanks.

SECTION C

1. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health who also acts for other districts.
One Sanitary Inspector, Member of Sanitary Institute.

2. AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The West Suffolk County Council are responsible for the ambulance service which is carried on through the agency of the West Suffolk Branch of the British Red Cross Society.

3. NURSING IN THE HOME

The West Suffolk County Council's Home nursing and midwifery service supply two District Nurses.

4. INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

The West Suffolk County Council provide one centre in the town. A clinic is held weekly at the Youth Club premises, Stour Street, on Thursdays at 2 p.m.

5. HOSPITALS

St. Leonards.
Walnuttree.

6. LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory Service directed by the Medical Research Council, at Ipswich has given the Borough very generous service.

SECTION D

The following is a statement of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspector during 1952 :

INSPECTIONS

Number of inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3200
Number of re-inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1600
Number of nuisances found	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	80
Number of nuisances abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	80
Number of informal notices	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	73
Number of premises subject to statutory notices	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Number of informal notices complied with	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	72

SANITARY WORKS AND IMPROVEMENTS

Dilapidated dustbins	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Choked drains	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Defective eave spouts and fall pipes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Defective flushing apparatus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Keeping of animals in unsanitary condition	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Defective construction of drains	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Dirty dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Defective water closets	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Defective fireplaces	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Dirty urinals, sanitary conveniences, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Dirty yards, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Defective roofs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Defective floors	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Defective sinks	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Defective waste pipes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Defective plasterwork	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Premises in need of limewashing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Offensive smells	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Defective windows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Dampness of dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Miscellaneous defects	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29

TEMPORARY DWELLINGS

Number of inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
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FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Number of nuisances found	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Number of complaints from H.M. Inspectors (dealt with)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

BAKEHOUSES

Number on register	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Number of inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	160
Number of defects dealt with	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7

DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS

Number on register	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Number of inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	90
Number of notices	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

Premises registered	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39
No. of inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	212
Defects found	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

During the year the following foodstuffs were condemned:

BUTCHERS' MEAT

19 articles comprising 64 lbs. in weight.

OTHER FOODS:

946 articles comprising 999 lbs. in weight and 38 pints of milk.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Spraying work	17
Many wasp nests, etc., treated and minor stoppages of drains, etc., cleared.	

ANTI-RODENT

Inspections made.. .. .	4822
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TREATMENTS OF BUSINESS PREMISES

Major infestations	0
Minor infestations	52
Infestations of mice only	14
Structural anti-rodent work	3

TREATMENTS OF PRIVATE DWELLINGS

Major infestations	3
Minor infestations	432
Infestations by mice only	52
Structural work	1

COUNCIL PROPERTIES

Major infestations	2
Minor infestations	2
Sewer treatments	2

FARM LANDS.

Farms and farm buildings in the Borough were regularly inspected to ensure that farmers were destroying rat infestations and preventing the spread of rats. Some work was done on farms by the rodent operator.

GENERAL.

The workable Area Sub-Committee, which includes representatives from Clare, Cosford and Melford Rural Districts, Haverhill and Hadleigh Urban Districts, and Sudbury Borough met in June. The Meeting was attended by officials from the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries and a useful interchange of information took place.

SAMPLING.

Samples of water supply and milk, taken during the year were satisfactory.

HOUSING

Undertakings not to re-let	4
Sinks and water supply secured	7
Additional w.c. accommodation	5
Unsatisfactory housing conditions reported	6
Overcrowding abated	1
Investigations regarding applications for Council Houses	22

Increasing difficulty is experienced in the securing of improvements or large repairs in nearly all types of working class houses.

During the year the following improvements were carried out:—

1. Covering with wire mesh and rendering with cement of external wooden walls of Nos. 1 and 2, The Claypits.
2. New paths in Humphrey Road.
3. Gates and posts in Humphrey Road.
4. Work of planting hedges in Humphrey Road put in hand.

A survey in detail of the Wents Estate for assessment of comparative rental value of the various types of houses was carried out.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

Premises registered	3
8 inspections were made during the year, under the Act.	

COUNCIL ESTATES.

A large and increasing amount of time was spent on work connected with the Council's Estates. This included visits in connection with the construction of outbuildings, maintenance of cleanliness, and tenants' complaints, also repairs and maintenance.

E. H. KERRIDGE,
Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION E.

National Assistance Act, 1948

Section 47.—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and protection.

No cases arose during the year calling for action in accordance with this section of the Act.

SECTION F

Prevention of and Control over Infectious Diseases

NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED									
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31 (0)
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 (40)
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41 (6)
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 (5)
Infective Jaundice	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31 (1)
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 (3)
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 (3)
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 (1)

Figures in parentheses refer to the Year 1951.

AGE OF INCIDENCE

DISEASE	0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—
Scarlet Fever	—	2	3	25	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	4	10	35	2	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	
Number of cases at commencement of year	12	18	30	5	1	6	36
Number of cases added during year	2	2	4	3	1	4	8
Number of cases removed during year	1	2	3	—	—	—	3
Number of cases remaining on register at end of year	13	18	31	8	2	10	41

No action has been called for under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SECTION G

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937

I.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities **	1	13	71	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	2	75	213	2	—	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding outworkers' premises) ..	3	10	17	—	—	3
Total ..		98	301	2	—	

FACTORY ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more “cases”)

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were in- stituted (7)	M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred			
				To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	4	3	3	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	1	1	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	2	2	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient	9	—	1	—	1	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	10	2	3	—	1	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
Total	60	8	10	—	2	—	60

* *e.g.* Metropolitan Borough, County Borough, Borough, Urban District, Rural District.

† *i.e.* Electrical Stations (Section 103(1)), Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

** Wide differences exist in the lists kept respectively by the Local Authorities and H.M. Inspectors of Factories of the numbers of factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the Factories Acts, 1937 are enforced by Local Authorities. It is requested therefore that Local Authorities should, as soon as can conveniently be arranged, compare their lists of factories with the lists kept by H.M. Inspectors of Factories.

PART VIII OF THE ACT
OUTWORK
(Sections 110 and 111)

			Section 110 No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)
Nature of Work		M/c line No.	
Wearing apparel—Making, etc.		13	1

G. P. BARCLAY,
Medical Officer of Health.